



Ambassador John D. Negroponte
United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations
Remarks at UN Headquarters following the Security's Council's Vote on a
Technical Extension of the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
July 3, 2002

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Remarks by Ambassador John D. Negroponte, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, following the Security Council's vote on a technical extension of the UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the Security Council Stake-Out, July 3, 2002

Ambassador Negroponte:

I don't have much to add to what Ambassador Greenstock had to say other than to confirm his comments as to the effect it was clear that we weren't going to be able to reach agreement on a resolution regarding the [International Criminal Court](#) by midnight tonight, and under the circumstances, given the discussion that had taken place thus far and given the desire on the part of a number of delegations to allow more time to consider the proposal that is on the table, and more exchanges here at the United Nations and in capitals, we took the decision to adopt the extension of the Bosnia mandate until the 15th of July. Like Ambassador Greenstock, I am not really prepared to get into the substance of our debate. We have basically taken a procedural step here, and as he said, we expect discussions to continue next week.

Reporter:

Mr. Ambassador, what is your response to the Secretary-General's letter that says the U.S. proposal puts the Security Council at risk of being discredited and that the U.S. issues are essentially moot and their considers are highly improbable?

Ambassador Negroponte:

Well, I really haven't had a chance to study his letter in great detail. It was circulated to us this afternoon. As you know, it was addressed to Secretary Powell, and I am sure that at the appropriate moment and in the appropriate way we will respond to the Secretary-General's letter.

Reporter:

Ambassador, are you not concerned that the U.S is seen to be climbing down on the issue, particularly after having said several times that the U.S didn't think it was a good idea to have technical roll-over?

Ambassador Negroponte:

Well, I think it has been an up-hill fight in terms of gaining understanding and acceptance for the point

of view that we've been putting forward but I think that the other delegations, a number of them have commented how they saw movement in our position and in the several drafts that we've put forward and also indicated an interest in continuing the discussion. So, I think no one has really slammed the door shut on our proposals, and it was on that basis that we came to the conclusion that we should allow the opportunity for these discussions to continue next week. Thank you very much. One last question.

Reporter:

The peacekeepers, what's their status?

Ambassador Negroponte:

Given the fact that the mandate has been extended to the 15th of July, they are not affected at the present time.

Reporter:

Mission of (inaudible) in Croatia and Yugoslavia expires the 15th.

Ambassador Negroponte:

You are making a point that I have made several times in the past that we do have to find some kind of resolution to this problem in due course otherwise we are going to be confronting it in a number of different situations and that's why we have been pursuing a generic solution to the problem, if at all possible. Thank you very much.

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